



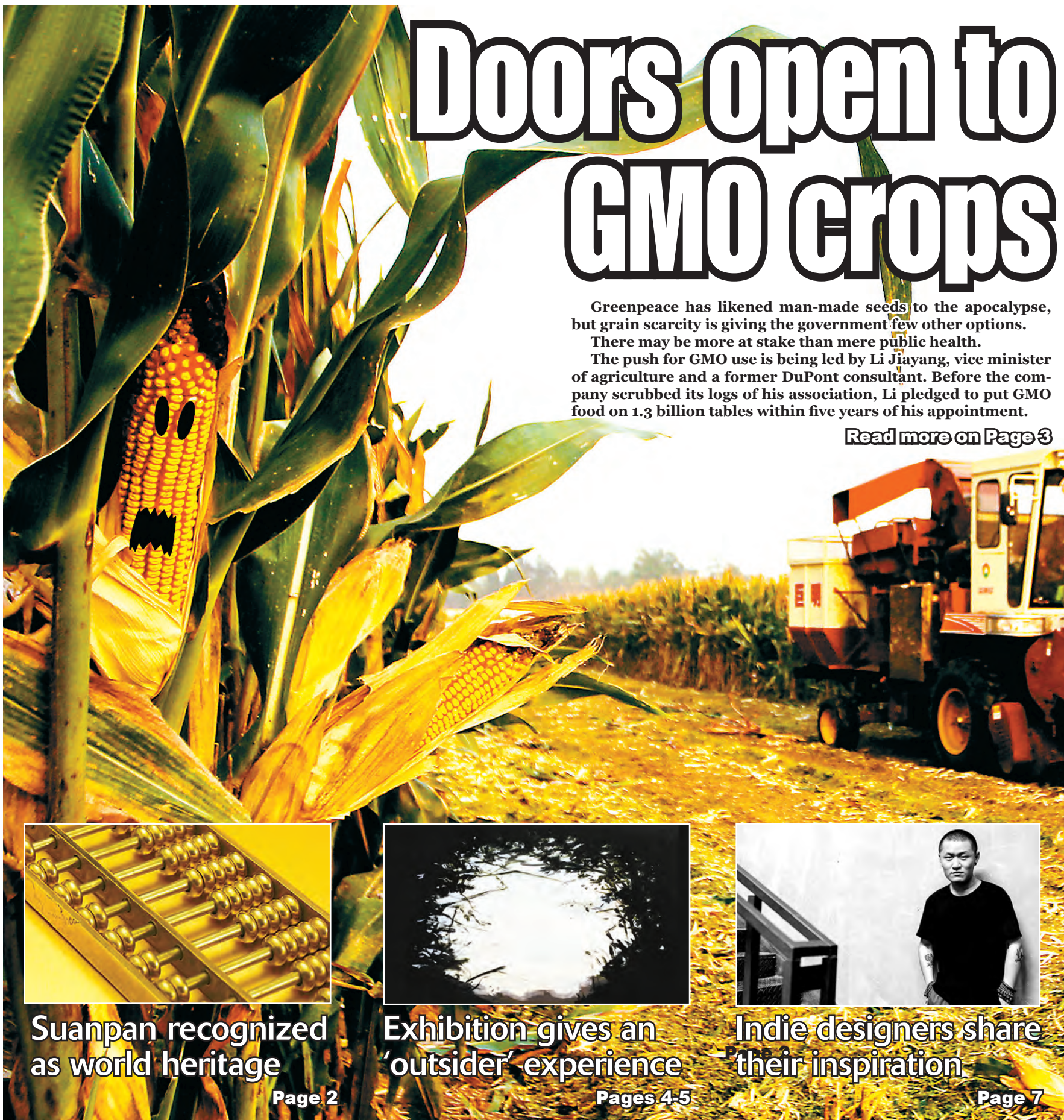
Doors open to GMO crops

Greenpeace has likened man-made seeds to the apocalypse, but grain scarcity is giving the government few other options.

There may be more at stake than mere public health.

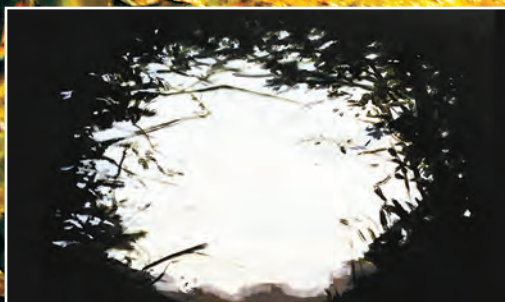
The push for GMO use is being led by Li Jiayang, vice minister of agriculture and a former DuPont consultant. Before the company scrubbed its logs of his association, Li pledged to put GMO food on 1.3 billion tables within five years of his appointment.

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Suanpan recognized as world heritage

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Dutch artist plans to compress smog into bling

By Zhao Hongyi

Dutch artist Daan Roosegaarde and his team are promoting a rather unorthodox plan to combat Beijing's smog.

The team says it will bury 50-meter rings of copper wire in several city parks to create an electrostatic vacuum capable of sucking in pollutants and compressing them into wearable rings.

The Guardian, *Daily Telegraph* and *Time* magazine reported on the plan, saying it has received preliminary approval from the Beijing municipal government and will begin a trial run in 2014.

The idea came during Roosegaarde's visit to the capital in 2012, during which he could only see the new CCTV tower on days with light smog.

The design was created with the assistance of Matt Hope, a scientist at a European environmental protec-



Daan Roosegaarde and his assistant at their lab in Holland

tion company, and Delft University of Technology.

"Every 1,000 cubic meters of smog can produce one ring," Roosegaarde said. "It's a unique way to connect environmental protection and art."

"We conducted a trial in a five-square-meter room," he said. "It cleared a one cubic meter hole in the air."

Roosegaarde said the underground wires will not pose a safety hazard.

But the local government and several Landscape and Forestry agencies in the city have denied signing any agreement with Roosegaarde and said such

a plan would have to be tested in a remote area before being approved for use downtown.

Netizens were quick to call it another case of foolish Chinese officials being cheated by international designers.

The CCTV Tower, the "Trouser Tower" in Suzhou, the "Bikini Building" in Guangzhou and the "Bra Building" in Ningbo were all the work of famous designers, but most have turned the Chinese skyline into a source of snickers.

China's infamous pollution has worsened in recent years.

Last month, smog covered the provinces of Heilongji-

ang, Jilin and Liaoning. It ultimately floated across the Yellow Sea to cover Seoul, which rarely sees smog.

Smog is also becoming a problem in Hong Kong, Taiwan and other parts of southern China.

Beijing blames its smog on industrial production and the burning of agricultural waste. The capital has moved all industrial mills out of the downtown area and prohibited waste burning in the countryside.

But the smog continues to worsen.

More recently, Beijing blamed vehicles for the smog, especially the high-polluting trucks used to make mid-night deliveries.



Heavy smog in Beijing seen earlier this month

CFP Photos

Chinese abacus finds a home on UNESCO's heritage list

By Zhao Hongyi

The *suanpan*, also known as the Chinese abacus, was among the latest 31 items added to UNESCO's list of intangible heritage on October 23.

The formal announcement, which will come during the 8th Annual UNESCO World Heritage Congress this December in Baku, Azerbaijan, also includes Korea's kimchi and Japanese cuisine.

The *suanpan* has a history more than 2,500 years and can be faster to use than a calculator in the hands of a master.

It is considered the fifth most important invention in Chinese history, and came



Suanpan is still seen in many occasions in China.

CFP Photo

into widespread use around 1,000 years ago during the Song Dynasty.

The *suanpan* has a long history in the world of Chinese business and education, though it reached its most active period of development during the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644).

For many years, children learned to use the device during grade school. Computation competitions remained popular into the 1970s.

Learning to use the *suanpan* at a young age can boost skill in addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.

The *suanpan* has seen

decreased use since the 1980s and 1990s, when schools abandoned them in favor of cheap digital calculators. However, they are still used in many neighborhood markets and pharmacies.

Modern versions of the *suanpan* have 13 columns of seven beads. Columns are divided to place two beads on the top and five on the bottom. Professional accountants use a *suanpan* with one bead on the top and four on the bottom.

Today, *suanpan* are more often used as gifts than calculation tools. *Suanpan* made of precious woods from India are especially prized.

GMOs certain to enter food chain, but when?

New push follows gov's appointment of DuPont adviser

By Zhao Hongyi

The discovery of corn oil produced from genetically modified plants in the provinces of Hunan and Hubei has intensified debate over the creep of GMO products into the marketplace.

While most condemn the secret introduction of GMO products into the food supply, the government appears committed to using them to combat an impending food crisis.

Secret introduction

Sino Grain, keeper of the nation's strategic grain supplies, hoped no one would notice that more than 1,400 tons of vegetable oil in the provinces of Hunan and Hubei was cut with genetically modified corn.

The revelation sparked national outrage that ended in the sacking of several managers and a pledge by Sino Grain to dispose of the oil and toughen its oversight.

Investigators learned that two storage sites in the provinces had illegally purchased GMO rapeseed from abroad and processed it into oil for human consumption. The Hubei storage had 994 tons of the oil and Hunan had 483 tons.

GMO grain has been a touchy subject in China during the past decade. In 1996, China began widespread planting of GMO cotton.

In 2001, following China's entry to World Trade Organization, the country announced it would import GMO soybeans from the US.

Those initial imports decimated the domestic soybean industry in north-eastern China.

But much of the popular opposition comes from fears that GMO products could cause cancer and male infertility. Many doctors of Chinese medicine advise women not to buy GMO products for their husbands.

History of debate

China's greatest challenge is finding a way to feed more than three times as many people as the US with only a third of its arable land.

Nevertheless, some scientists are adamant that GMO products are not the answer. Many have called on the government to learn from



GMO soybean oil is found in most Chinese supermarkets.

CFP Photo

the European Union, which has strict laws regulating the importation and use of GMO products and plants.

The absence of such regulation has turned Chinese into a testing ground for European and American engineers looking to conduct cheap human trials.

In 2008, a team of Chinese American scientists from Tufts University used elementary school students in the provinces of Hunan and Jiangsu as guinea pigs for their GMO "golden rice."

Parents and the general public were furious when the trial was exposed by Greenpeace in 2012. The Chinese government dismissed a number of Chinese scientists and called on the researchers at Tufts University to apologize.

Officially, the government is promoting a new rice hybrid by Yuan Longping, an agricultural scientist in Hunan Province. Yuan new rice is based on a high-yield strain native to Hainan Island.

But that rice will be far from enough to feed the nation's bulging population. Grain scarcity is quickly approaching crisis levels.

China's large population makes food safety an issue of national stability.

From 1950 to 1980, the country was one of the world's largest importers of grain. Free market reforms ended the government-backed supply system and brought about creeping scarcity.

Since the 1970s, the price for a half kilogram of rice has risen from 0.11 yuan to more than 4 yuan.

Seeking to bandage the flagging supplies, Premier Li Keqiang visited Thailand in September to sell China's best high-speed trains to the country in exchange for several million tons of rice.

That purchase could go to waste if China does not find a way to check its cultural preference of throwing away food in showy displays. At the start of the year, a government survey found that businessmen and officials waste about 8 million tons of grain – enough to feed 15 percent of the country.

One of President Xi Jinping's first public campaigns called on diners to order only what they plan to eat and carry home their leftovers.

New wave of GMO

The push to switch to GMO products found new support in September, with the results of a decade-long planting experiment in the US.

Luo Yunbo, president of the School of Food Science and Nutritional Engineering at China Agricultural University, dismissed the rumors of GMO food causing cancer and sterility as nonsense.

"More than 90 percent of the soybeans and corn grown in the US are genetically modified. About 20 percent of the corn and 40 percent of the soybeans are exported and the rest is consumed domestically," Luo said.

"No one has reported any cases of strange diseases caused by eating GMO foods," he said.

In Europe, Spain, Portugal, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Romania have approved the planting of GMO products.

"We have been using the same land for decades and food harvest has increased for nine consecutive years," said Wu Kongming, vice president of the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences. "There is little room to further boost our yields."

In 2012, China imported 58 million tons of soybeans and 80 million tons of cereals, plus rice, wheat and rapeseed, Wu said.

Sixty-one Chinese academicians appealed this month to dismantle the barriers on GMO rice, wheat and potatoes to meet local demands. They denounced the often-cited studies that link GMO corn to cancer in mice as unsubstantiated rumors.

But many media personalities have risen in opposition.

Cui Yongyuan, a CCTV moderator, resigned from the station to conduct a personal investigation of GMO consumption patterns in the US.

His said most US residents do not know whether the grains they buy come from GMO plants and rely entirely on the country's regulatory authorities.

While it's true that 90 percent of the soybeans produced in the US are genetically modified, 98 percent of the country's

soybean crop is used for animal feed. Corn is the only GMO product that most Americans are likely to end up eating.

Architect of controversy

Further investigation pointed to Li Jiayang, vice minister of agriculture, as the engineer of the current controversy. Li served as a consultant to DuPont, a pioneer in GMO seed production, from 2007 and 2011.

Li's push parallels one seen in the US in 2009, when US President Barack Obama appointed Michael Taylor, former vice president of GMO maker Monsanto, as senior adviser of the US Food and Drug Administration.

During his DuPont days, Li swore to put GMO rice on every Chinese table within three to five years if recruited for higher office.

Since his government appointment, Li's name has been deleted from DuPont's records. He no longer appears on the company's list of former staff.

DuPont previously released a GMO corn on the Chinese market that led to sterility in both the livestock and rural communities that ate it. Several villages attempted to bring a lawsuit against the company.

"At this point, the discussion is no longer about whether to open the market to GMO products," said Wang Jun, a professor of social science at Peking University.

"The government already made its decision."

Women artists share of the outsider

By Annie Wei

Visitors to Sanlitun are likely to miss the small gallery that has occupied a spot on the embassy street since 2005.

The venue, a pleasure to visit on sunny autumn weekends, is currently exhibiting *Outsider*, a collection of works by three women artists.



Single Leg Table by Chen Xuan



Horse Leg Table by Chen Xuan



Chen Xuan's table series uses different legs.



Can't Let Go... by Wang Qi



Party by Wang Qi



Suddenly by Wang Qi

e the view



Wang Min (left), Wang Qi (second from left) and Chen Xuan (right) at the opening.



Exhibition poster at C5 gallery

Chen Xuan is an architect with an interest in animal-leg tables, Wang Qi is a sculptor and Wang Min is a painter who captures daily life with her brush.

The three have been friends since their days at the Central Academy of Fine Arts (CAFA) nearly 20 years past.

Three months ago they met for dinner. After eating and drinking their fill, they swapped photos of their current work and decided to collaborate on an exhibition.

"Chen came up with the 'outsider' theme," Wang Min said. "We look at society, the environment and the people around us through the eyes of an outsider, and those observations play into our self-examination."

Chen said "outsider" was an easy theme to build upon.

"I wanted to put visitors to our exhibition in that position," she said. "Their first impression of our work reflects their own situation and their connection to society, friends, family, work and the future."

"I think the theme is also connected to our (the three artists) relationship with one another's situation," Wang Qi said. Although they are all in the art circle, they remain close and yet disconnected.

The exhibition includes few pieces, but their arrangement in the exhibition space creates an interesting experience.

The exhibition area feels like a living room, with paintings hanging on the wall, a table where you can place a vase, a book or a cup of coffee and sculpture standing in for your friends or roommates.

Most of the paintings are very gray, which Wang Min said fits her personality. The contents of each reflect her life experience.

Wang Min began working as a professional artist in Germany in 2003. Her paintings recall scenes of an airport and the stack of albums she listened to during her travels.

Since 2012, her work has drawn more inspiration from news blurbs on Sina Weibo and moments of her life.

At the exhibition, each of her paintings such as "We All Need to Take Pills," "Who

is Whose Pet?" and "Trade Marriage" urges the viewer to step outside himself.

"I like simple things and focus on the details of daily life. They can reflect the relationship between myself and society," Wang Min said.

As an architect and spacious designer, Chen is fascinated with juxtaposing the expression and personality of animals with the clarity and tonality of space and geometry.

Although all her tables have animal legs, each is different.

The animals are "cut off" and people can only see their legs moving in opposite directions, which creates the illusion of action underneath the table.

The tables appear to be moving with the animals, often in chaos. The effect varies depending on whether the table is placed in a spacious or small room.

Chen's furniture also functions as a sculpture. Each table is handmade by craftsman in and around Beijing using fiberglass, wood, paint and stainless steel.

Many visitors were especially impressed by Wang Qi's works, especially her sculptures that

capture human emotions. One shows a woman who appears lost after losing her heel in the rain; another is the domestic image of topless young girl being startled by a cat.

Wang has focused on figure sculpture since her post-graduate days. She often creates sculptures based on favorite paintings and enjoys turning 2D into 3D.

After studying color, space and body languages, Wang said she found the most difficult thing is to reflect complicated emotions, like desire, terror, ambivalence and flirtatiousness.

"My sculptures are like my actors, with different faces, clothes and moods playing different characters," Wang said.

"I always remember seeing the sculptures of ancient warriors at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. I was touched. I realized back that the sculptors put their hearts into each piece," she said.

"That gave their work life, and I could feel it thousands of years later."



Inside C5 Gallery



Don't Cry by Wang Min



Trapped Aggrandizement and Depression by Wang Min



Trade Marriage by Wang Min



Who is Whose Pet? by Wang Min

Photos provided by Wang Min/
Wang Qi/Chen Xuan

Outsider

Where: C5 gallery, Sanlitun Xiwu Jie, Chaoyang District

When: Through November 10

Open: 10:30 am – 6 pm, closes on Monday

Tel: 6460 3950

Film highlights new generation's changing notions of love



Xiao Ou meets Yang Xi a second time but does not recognize him.

By Zhao Hongyi

Zhao Xiao'ou is one of the pioneering directors of the newest generation. Many of his movies, such as *The Curse*, explore complex social issues such as marriage.

His latest film, *The Most Familiar Stranger*, has been ranked among the year's Top 10 short films by preview audiences.

Yang Xi is living day to day as a street bully when love changes his life.

When Xiao Ou, a recent high school graduate, has her purse snatched by other thugs, Yang falls in love with her at first sight.

He meets her again several days later, but is shocked that she cannot recognize him.

At first Yang thinks it is because of a social status. His desire for recognition inspired him to find a job in a cafeteria and begin saving money before talking to her again.

Several months later, after knocking on her door, Yang learns Xiao Ou is in love with another man.

Inside her home are



Director Zhao Xiao'ou



Xiao Ou moved by Yang Xi in the hospital



Yang Xi spends his birthday with Xiao Ou.

Photos provided by pps.tv



Yang Xi finds Xiao Ou's wall of faces.

countless photos of faces and names. Yang learns Xiao Ou has a disability that makes it almost impossible for her to recognize faces, and her last boyfriend left her out of frustration.

Xiao Ou eventually attempts to kill herself by leaving the gas on in her home. Yang rescues her and takes her to the hospital, paying her medical bills with the money he saved.

After Xiao Ou is discharged from the hospital, Yang takes her home and promises to stay with her forever.

Although the film is left unfinished, the director Zhao Xiao'ou said the story ends with Yang and Xiao Ou divorcing after they have a child.

The film is seen as somewhat critical of the manner in which young people chase

after love and manage life. The core lesson, Zhao said, is that love needs support and marriage needs love. One's personal situation should not come before shared experience.

Once love is gone, a marriage is dead.

Ideas about love and family life have changed dramatically since the Cultural Revolution. Most parents have done little to prepare their children for married life.

"We're in the process of rediscovering what the natural order of life should be," Zhao said.

Although the film is new, its name is not. The title was the name of a popular song by Taiwanese singer Elvia Hsiao during the early 2000s, as well as a 40-episode TV series aired on CCTV.

Reality show challenges city kids to survive in countryside

By Zhao Hongyi

Where's Dad? might be a sign that reality TV is on the verge of a comeback.

The show challenges four children between the ages of 4 and 7, together with their celebrity fathers, to live in a mountain village in rural Beijing for one week.

During the week, the children and their fathers are expected to cook their own meals and do everything on their own. Conflicts are inevitable, and the show is full of crying, screaming, happiness and disappointment.

The experience is especially harrowing for the fathers, who usually spend little time with their children. Most of the children cry for their mothers and refuse to eat anything their fathers cook.

Nevertheless, the kids have to cooperate to finish some of the tasks on the show.

Where's Dad?, originally a South Korean creation, was licensed by Hunan Satellite TV earlier this year for production on the mainland.

It has since spawned a

wave of similar reality programs that put real people in unusual situations designed to incite happiness and tears.

The show quickly became the nation's most popular, sweeping aside numerous programs given entirely to sharing sob stories.

"We are prepared to continue production ... and will continue to expand on this theme," said Xie Diqui, general director of *Where's Dad?*

"Reality shows with a family theme seem to be welcomed in this market."



Indie designers release new collections

By Annie Wei

China's indie explosion is breaking down doors and allowing more young designers to compete with national brands in the yearly China Fashion Week.

This week, we spoke with Su Guangyu about life as a young indie fashion designer and visited Fan Ran's first fashion show.



Designer Su Guangyu

Photos provided by Su Guangyu

Being an indie designer in China

Designer Su Guangyu's shared us some insight about being an indie designer.

Q: What's your inspiration?

A: My designs focus on flowers and plants, which are connected to my childhood experiences. The things happening around me are also inspiring. I find it interesting to link them together.

This collection was inspired by the azalea, a Chinese flower. Many classic poems praise it as having strong vitality. I was also inspired by a documentary shot by Michelangelo Antonio in 1972. It records life and the city environment in Beijing and Shanghai.

My collection attempts to reflect that unique time in China, when there was little politics and people had few material demands. Everyone's attitude toward fashion was very practical.

Q: What is the most difficult part of being an indie designer in China?

A: There are a lot of problems with financing, technology and staff turnover. But I think that happens everywhere. This is just the beginning for China's indie designers and it will take another five to ten years or more to mature.

In terms of the market, I think China is one of the few countries with its own



fashion system and rules. Right now, the industry rules come from Europe and North America. However, I think China's own fashion sense has great potential given the nation's culture and history, not to mention its current economic growth.

Q: Where are your clothes available and who are your consumers? How can you control your production costs?

A: My designs are available online, at buyer stores and several designers' online platforms. I have my own Taobao store, but the latest works can be found in my studio's Weibo account, @Su.GuangYu.

Most of my customers are my age. I have some stable clientele who are like friends.

As for management and cost control, they vary with the season. I am still learning.

Q: Chinese designers seem to be disinterested in fabric and lack innovation in this area. How do you source your fabrics?

A: Fabric is very important in fashion design. I personally avoid materials that are too new or expensive. I prefer something that offers good value for the price: such fabrics usually come in large production runs and cost less. More importantly, the customers already recognize and accept them.

I don't think expensive fabrics automatically result in better designs or clothes.



Su Guangyu's collection for 2013 fall and winter



Photos provided by RanFan Studio

Great cuts and modern designs from RanFan

Two weeks ago was designer Fan Ran's first appearance at China Fashion Week after five years of developing her studio.

Fan is a 2008 graduate of Central Saint Martins and a rising star in the domestic fashion industry. She is known for her geometric cuts and modern designs.

Up until this year, Fan insisted it was not the time to participate in a fashion show. 2013 was different. Like many well-known indie designers, Fan has built reliable sales channels and a strong consumer base.

RanFan's new collection looks light and soft and features some of her first floral prints. Her latest lineup is tied

together with a focus on "light."

"The theme is quite abstract," Fan said. Her team had to carefully consider the stage setup and how to express the concept to the audience.

Fan said she was inspired by the energy of moments spent with loved ones and friends: especially sunny afternoons, bright mornings, relaxing sunsets and wild nights.

We liked Fan's new collection, especially the materials she selected.

The blue mesh leather jacket was made by workers who handpicked each slice and molded it using steam. The same technique was used to produce her white mesh cotton tops.

There are two knitted silk sweaters that make use of complicated print, cut and plaid techniques. The dominant colors are sky blue, white and almond pink, all fresh and feminine.

RanFan's collection can be viewed online at brandnewchina.cn.



Wines of the Week

Oldest vines survive in South Australia

By Annie Wei

The world of wine changed dramatically in the mid-1900s with the Great French Wine Blight.

Originating in North America, the disease spread across the Atlantic in the late 1950s and destroyed many French cultivars.

But you can still get a taste of history in Australia. Wine-maker Kaesler sells an old vine Shiraz priced 805 to 2,397 yuan per bottle. Its source grapes are identical to those cultivated in France some 200 years earlier.

Kaesler was founded in 1884 when the family emigrated from Germany with what would become Australia's first Shiraz, Grenache and Matrao (Mourvedre) plants. Its vineyard is located in South Australia, a small village of 2,000 people.

We started our tasting with the winery's Viognier (359 yuan), a white wine with a strong Australian character.

South Australia is an ideal place for growing grapes, and 60 percent of Australia's white wines are produced in its vineyards.

The first red we tried, a 2011 Kaesler Stonehorse SGM (270 yuan), was from its younger vineyard. SGM is made of Shiraz, Grenache and Matrao, and is a typical Australian blend. It's an easy bottle to drink with friends.

The second red was a 2009 Kaesler Cabernet Sauvignon (407 yuan), made only in the best years with a total run of 18,000 bottles.

The third red was a 2011 Kaesler "The Bogan" Shiraz (696 yuan), whose subtle detail and character is uniquely Australian.

Kaesler wines are available at Kerrywines.com.



Old Bastard made of old vines



Stonehorse SGM



Kaesler winery in its heaviest

Photos provided by Kaesler winery

Dining Out

Capital M releases winter menu

By Annie Wei

The Qianmen area, formerly the heart of Old Beijing, is beautiful during autumn. Many people like to stroll from the old city wall to the pedestrian street to view the old ginkgo tress.

If you're looking for great food to complement the scenery, you can't go wrong with Capital M.

The restaurant is recommended not only for its view, but for being one of the few fine Western restaurants in the area.

Capital M recently updated its winter menu. We liked its demitasse of seafood bisque with rouille and croutons. The soup was served in a teacup and just hot enough to warm your stomach with its rich and creamy flavor.

For vegetarians, its autumn mezze has a lot of seasonal vegetables. It has dips of baba ghanoush, hummus, carrot and cumin falafels, haloumi, spinach and feta pies, salads of pickled radishes, olives and warm soft pita.



Soup



Seafood stew

CFP Photos

Its Sicilian seafood stew is a good alternative if you don't eat red meat. It has scallops, prawns, mussels, red mullet and crab cooked with celery, eggplants, fennel and currants.

In addition to food, Capital M also hosts cultural events. Throughout November it will be offering performances and talks about music, architecture, culinary arts,

creativity and wines.

The post-event dinner is a good deal. For 288 yuan, you can enjoy two-courses and a glass of house wine or three courses.

Capital M

Where: 3/F, 2 Qianmen Pedestrian Street, Chongwen District

Open: 11 am - 3 pm, 5:30-11 pm

Tel: 6702 2727

Made from the Market

Easy stir fried rice noodles at home

By Annie Wei

One of the most popular dishes in Hong Kong restaurants is stir fried rice noodles, especially noodles cooked with soy sauce, egg, beef and bean sprouts.

Stir fried rice noodles are easy to make. This week, we talked with Chef Luke Wang at Rocking Horse Cafe, a Taiwanese chef who spent years studying cooking in Europe.

Noodles are one of his favorite things to make when he's eating alone at home.

The only tricky part is preparing the noodles. "It's easiest to just buy dry rice noodles (15 yuan per bag), made in Xinzu, Taiwan, at the Xinyuanli food market," Wang said.

Bring a pot of water to a rolling

boil, add the noodles, stir quickly and remove. Put them in a bowl on your counter and cover it a lid. This is an essential step to ensure the noodles come out soft and chewy.

After that, you can stir fry some cabbage, carrots, bean sprouts or a meat of your choice.

When the ingredients are almost done cooking, add some soy sauce and a little sugar.

Add enough water to cover the vegetables halfway, return the noodles to the pan, mix well and season with salt, pepper and chili paste.

The noodles are done when most of the water has boiled out.

Serve on a plate topped with crushed peanuts or Bonito flakes.



Fried rice noodle

CFP Photo